REDACTED

BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Against:

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NO. D-1977

Respondent.

L-14064

NOTICE OF NON-ADOPTION OF PROPOSED DECISION

(Pursuant to Section 11517 of the Government Code)

TO THE RESPONDENT ABOVE NAMED:

In the Matter of the Accusation

LEROY AMAR, M.D.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Division of Medical Quality of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance of the State of California has decided not to adopt the attached proposed decision, filed herein by the duly assigned Administrative Law Judge, John A. Willd, and dated March 16, 1978. You are also notified that the Division of Medical Quality will decide the case upon the record, including the transcript and without the taking of additional evidence. You are hereby afforded the opportunity to present written argument to the Division of Medical Quality, if you desire to do so, by filing such written argument with the Division at its office at 1430 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, California, 95825, and the same opportunity is afforded the Attorney General of the State of California.

You will be notified of the date for submission of such written argument when the transcript of the administrative hearing becomes available.

DATED: May 4, 1978

DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

VERNON A. LEEPER, Program Manager Enforcement Unit

BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY

BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

LEROY AMAR, M.D.
Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. C28142,

Respondent.

PROPOSED DECISION

This matter came on regularly for hearing before John A. Willd, Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, at Los Angeles, California, on November 2, 1977, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. Dora Levin and Gayle M. Askren, Deputies Attorney General, appeared on behalf of the complainant, and at least one of the deputies was present at all times during the proceedings. The respondent, Leroy Amar, M.D., was personally present at all times during the proceedings and for a portion of the time he was represented by Henry Lewin, his attorney. This matter was heard on November 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15, 1977. The matter was again heard on January 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, 1978. Mr. Henry Lewin represented the respondent at all stages of the proceedings until January 4, 1978. On that date the respondent Leroy Amar substituted himself as counsel in this matter and Mr. Henry Lewin was relieved as counsel based upon the motion personally made by respondent. Thereafter, the respondent proceeded in propria persona although Mr. Henry Lewin did remain with respondent and did consult with him through January 6, 1978. Evidence both oral and documentary having been received, the matter was submitted and the Administrative Law Judge makes the following findings of fact:

Ι

Joseph P. Cosentino, M.D. filed the Accusation and the First Supplemental Accusation herein in his capacity as the Acting Executive Director of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance.

II

On or about June 10, 1966 respondent Leroy Amar, M.D. was issued physician's and surgeon's certificate No. C28142 by the

Board of Medical Examiners, the predecessor agency to the Board of Medical Quality Assurance. Said certificate is now and was at all times mentioned herein in full force and effect.

III

Sometime in July 1974 Ms. B contacted an organization known as Women Who Help Women. Ms. B spoke with a Mr. Dubin who was the principal directing force of the organization. Ms. B contracted for the following surgical procedures: Face lift, eyelid lift and repair of a deviated septum. On or about August 27, 1974 Ms. B went to a surgical facility at Stanton, California. Shortly after her arrival respondent introduced himself to Ms. B and he took some pre-operative photographs of her. Later respondent was present in the operating room and had a brief discussion with Ms. B concerning anesthetics she would receive. Respondent did not perform any surgical procedures on Ms. Beat. The surgical procedures of face lift augmentation mammaplasty, eyelid lift and a surgical procedure on the nose of Ms. Been were all performed by a Dr. Brown. Sometime later Ms. B did see Dr. Amar for postoperative. She complained that something in one of her breasts had slipped and that she was unable to close her eyes. Respondent removed stitches and gave Ms. Besome medication. Respondent did express his opinion to Ms. B that her breast implant was just settling in and that she would be able to close her eyes in time. surgical result for Ms. Bear were not favorable. For several months following surgery she had a bad smell emanating from within her nose. The tip of her nose would turn blue and red particularly in cold weather. Her left breast has become very hard and she was unable to close her eyes for approximately six months following surgery. addition she has very limited movement of her right eyebrow.

IV

In or about August 1974 Many Sain contacted the organization known as Women Who Help Women and made inquiry about a breast lift. She spoke with Mr. Henry Dubin of that organization and she was assured that it was a rather simple procedure which they performed all of the time. On one visit to the offices of Women Who Help Women her breasts were examined by Dr. John Brown and she was observed by respondent. On August 31, 1974 Man Same went to the medical facility at Stanton, California. She received no physical examination prior to surgery. She put on a gown which was provided for her and walked into the surgery room. Dr. Brown and the respondent were both in the operating room and respondent was introduced to Man San as the assistant surgeon. Thereafter the patient was anesthesized and Dr. Brown performed breast surgery on Many Same. Several days later Man San returned to the offices of Women Who Help Women and her stitches were removed by Dr. Brown. The patient complained that her breast were very sore but she was reassured that there were no problems. The patient was not given any medication.

On or about September 11, 1974 the patient Man State developed an abscess in her left breast. She attempted to reach Dr. Brown but she was advised that he was in San Francisco. She attempted to reach the respondent and she was advised that Dr. Amar would return her call. This patient was not contacted by Dr. Amar. Shortly thereafter her infection ruptured and pus drained from the rupture. This patient went to another physician in order to take care of the infection. This patient was left with deformed breasts. They were uneven in size and became quite hard. Thus far she has received four surgeries in order to correct her condition. Medical records for this patient have never been located. It is not known whether or not medical records were ever prepared or kept for the patient Man State.

VI

In approximately September 1974 Land Show went to the offices of Women Who Help Women. There she spoke with Mr. Dubin and inquired about obtaining breast implants as well as the possibility of modifying her ears so they would lay closer to her head. Land Show also spoke with Dr. John Brown who visually examined her breasts and advised her that she could have breast implants. During this examination Land Show advised Dr. Brown that she did have a heart problem specifically that she had a prolapsed mitral heart valve. Because of this condition Land Show did consult her own physician and inquired whether she might undergo this surgery. Her physician was somewhat cautious but indicated that she might proceed with the surgery.

VII

On September 19, 1974 respondent performed an augmentation mammaplasty and an otoplasty on Land September. Prior to the surgery Land September did advise respondent that she was suffering from a heart problem. However, respondent did not conduct any physical examination of the patient prior to surgery other than taking a blood test.

VIII

On September 21, 1974 respondent examined Lam Sand advised her that corrective surgery would be needed because her right breast was smaller than the left breast. Respondent also attempted to remove stitches in the ear, however, this procedure was quite painful and it was abandoned by respondent.

IX

On September 25, 1974 Land Same again went to the Stanton medical facility. At this point Land Same became most apprehensive concerning further surgery. She told respondent that she was afraid and did not wish to proceed. Respondent reassured

Limit show and told her that there was nothing to this operation, that it would be a breeze. She was given no physical examination but she would from time to time receive a shot of some medication and this medication did tend to calm her. After waiting several hours the patient was ultimately taken into the operating room.

Limit was now very apprehensive. She advised respondent that her heart felt strange, that it was fluttering and that it was bothering her. She asked that someone check her heart and she again indicated that she did not wish to proceed with the surgery. Respondent again reassured Limit show and he told the nurse to proceed with the anesthetic. Respondent did remove the implant in the right breast of Limit Show. It was not established, however, that he replaced it with one of identical size.

X

pectus excavatum (sunken chest). By virtue of the shape of her chest it is true that there is some tendency for the breasts to gravitate toward the center of her chest, the end result, however, is not in this instance particularly abnormal and the patient is not dissatisfied with the implants from a cosmetic standpoint.

XI

The otoplasty performed by respondent on Land Same was not successful in that while the right ear was placed in a desirable position, the left ear was for some reason not substantially altered when compared to its pre-operative location.

XII

Sometime in approximately September 1974 Head Bears went to the office of Women Who Help Women. There she spoke to one Kathleen Dubin and she told Mrs. Dubin that she was considering breast augmentation. Kathleen Dubin advised H B that the operation was a simple one which would take approximately forty-five minutes and there would be no discomfort. Mrs. Dubin stated that H B would be able to return to work in two or three days and there would be only a hairline scar following the operation. Later, Dr. Brown visually examined H B Breast. Dr. Brown told H B that he would be assisted by Dr. Amar. H then left the offices of Women Who Help Women and after discussing the matter with her husband she decided to have the surgery. Surgery for Hama Barray was scheduled for September 24, 1974 at Stanton, California. Hama Barray resides with her husband in San Fernando Valley. She decided for her own convenience to stay with her parents on the night of September 23 because her parents live in Orange County near the City of Stanton. On the evening of September 23, 1974 Ms. B was contacted by a representative of Women Who Help Women by telephone. Ms. B was advised that Dr. Brown was in San Francisco and would be unable to perform the operation on the following day. Ms. Bears was directed to go to a

medical facility in Reseda on the following morning and that a Dr. Berez would perform the augmentation mammaplasty. Dr. Berez did perform the surgery and four or five days later Head B went to the offices of Women Who Help Women for postoperative care. At this point she was seen by respondent. The surgery performed by Dr. Berez was not satisfactory. The implants were improperly placed; the scar was too large; it was crooked and was too low so that it would be visible below a bra or halter top. Respondent advised Ms. B that the surgery would have to be redone. There was some discussion concerning the possibility of removing the implants at this point permitting the incision to heal and then redoing the surgery at some future time. Ms. B did indicate that she did desire to retain her implants. On September 30, or October 1, 1974 respondent redid the augmentation mammaplasty on H Drains were placed in each breast and while the precise time was not established at this hearing, the drains remained in the breasts for approximately seven days on the right side and approximately ten days on the left side.

XIII

During the week following surgery respondent came to the home of H B on at least two different occasions and respondent did dress the incision and give postoperative care. At first the incisions appeared to be healing, however, infection subsequently developed, particularly on the patient's right breast. On October 12, 1974 a family member called respondent on behalf of He Bernondent was advised that He Bernoy had a fever of 102 degrees; that she was suffering a great deal of pain; that stitches were ripping at the incision site on the right breast and that the implant was exposed. At this time respondent directed that Hall be hospitalized at the San Vicente Hospital. Respondent came to the hospital where he examined Ham Barren in her hospital room. He determined that there was an infection and he prescribed antibiotics to be administered intravenously. Respondent removed the stitches on the right breast and following his examination he did indicate to the husband of Head Bearing that the implants might have to be removed.

XIV

At approximately noon on October 14, 1974 respondent discharged the patient How Both from the San Vicente Hospital by telephone. Respondent had not examined this patient on October 14, 1974 the date of her discharge nor did he discuss with How Both the fact that she would be discharged from the hospital. At the time of her discharge the wound on her right breast was still open and the implant was exposed and draining pus. The left breast was rather hard and did show some evidence of hematoma. The patient How Both was in pain at the time of her discharge. She was shocked and depressed when she was told that she would be discharged. Ms. Both contacted her husband and within two hours she was placed under the care of another physician.

Sometime early in September 1974 THE K HARD contacted the organization of Women Who Help Women. In due course Ms. H contacted respondent on or about September 7, 1974. Ms. He who is approximately five feet five inches in height and weighs between 100 and 105 pounds indicated to respondent that she desired small implants and respondent advised her that there would be no problem. Ms. He also advised respondent concerning her health history, specifically that she was hypoglycemic and that she was allergic to Zylocain and Novocain. She was advised to not eat for one day prior to surgery and surgery was scheduled for September 11 at Stanton. When she arrived at Stanton she was given an injection and she was asked for \$25.00 for a blood test. Ms. He did not have the \$25.00 but evidently she was given a blood test. She received no other physical examination prior to her surgery. Thereafter, respondent did perform an augmentation mammaplasty, however, the inserts were much larger than the patient had expected. She was concerned about the size of her breasts but respondent reassured her that everything would be all right. Time Ke He did develop a large area of discoloration particularly on her left arm and left side. or about September 17, 1974 a second procedure was performed on The Key Has to remove a blood clot from her left breast. second procedure respondent was present and also Dr. Brown. Following the second surgery the right breast developed a capsule and the left breast lowered. On or about November 4, 1974 respondent performed a third operation on The K How to release the capsule in her left breast and to raise the right breast. Following this surgery the left breast again hardened and it was substantially larger than the right breast. The K H continued to complain about the large size of her breast, however, she advised the respondent to leave the right breast as it was and to operate further on the left breast to make it equal in size to the right breast.

IVX

The patient TEN KEN Howent to respondent's surgical clinic very late on the evening of January 14, 1975. There was no one present at that time who could administer a general anesthetic to the patient. Respondent attempted the procedure by the use of local anesthetics. However, these local anesthetics did not have the desired results on TEN KEN HOWEN Respondent did perform this fourth surgery in an effort to make the left breast equal in size to the right breast. The patient did complain a great deal and she did suffer considerable discomfort during the surgery.

XVII

Following the fourth surgery the implant on the left breast of The Kar Ham fell and respondent advised The Kar Ham that a further procedure would have to be done on the left breast to raise it to the level of the right breast. Ms. Ham indicated that she did not wish to have any further surgeries unless she was appropriately anesthesized. Respondent did advise Ms. Ham that an anesthetist would be present but she would have to pay \$50.00 for this service. Thereafter

on March 14, 1975 The Kee He again returned to respondent's clinic believing that her left breast would be raised to the same level as her right breast. The procedure actually performed by respondent, however, was the removal of both implants and the insertion of different shaped implants into the patient's breasts. The last set of implants enlarged The Heart breasts so that she was unable to extend her arms forward without her arms touching the outside of her breasts. She observed that her nipples pointed outward and their location was not appealing. A further result of the surgeries was a loss of considerable feeling in both breasts. At the present time The Kee Heart has very little feeling in either breast and she has since had further surgery to remove the implants in her breasts.

XVIII

On or about March 5, 1976 respondent performed an augmentation mammaplasty on patient Carta Land Thereafter respondent administered postoperative care, the stitches were removed and Ms. Land was told to return for continuing postoperative observation. Early in April 1976 Ms. I developed infections in both breasts. Thereafter, respondent saw the patient more often, he cleaned the breasts with water and peroxide and prescribed some powder which the patient was to apply to her breasts.

XIX

On June 8 or 9, 1976 respondent performed a second operation on Cart to release the capsules in both breasts. The patient was informed by respondent that he drained blood and pus from the incisions during the surgery. Respondent did place a drain in the patient's left breast and this drain was left in for approximately one week. Postoperative care was continued and on July 9 it was determined that the right breast was hardening and possibly infected. On or about July 16, 1976 Company Low was advised by respondent that she would require a third surgery in order to correct the hardening in her right breast. Respondent performed a third surgery on Ms. Le on July 27, 1976 to release the capsule in her right breast. Postoperative care continued and by August 20 the incision appeared to be healing. As time went on, however, an infection again developed in the right breast of Carry Land By September 18 Ms. Land right breast was painful and became discolored in the area of the incision. On September 20, 1976 the silicone implant in the right breast of C L broke and some of the silicone material spilled out. C went to respondent's office but respondent was not there. One of respondent's employees did contact respondent by telephone and respondent was advised that the incision had opened and the implant was being held in the breast by a small amount of skin. suggested that his employee cut the skin and remove the implant, however, the employee was reluctant to take this action. Later that evening respondent returned to his office where respondent snipped the skin holding the implant in her right breast, he pressed from the top of the right breast and forced the implant out of the breast. Respondent did perform this procedure while he was in his street

clothes and in a non-sterile setting. He did, however, wash his hands prior to removing the implant and he did treat the infected area with some medication.

XX

The patient Cambo Landid from time to time receive medication to treat infections which developed. On September 22, 1976 respondent advised Ms. Les that she had an infection in her right breast and he prescribed Chloromycetin. Subsequently on September 30 or October 1 respondent prescribed Erythromycin. Subsequently on October 6, 1976 Canal Land advised one of respondent's employees that the infection still had not cleared up and was still draining. Respondent at that point authorized a telephone prescription for Ampicillin. During the period from October 6 through November 2, 1976 Canal Land did on various occasions contact one of respondent's employees by telephone. As a result of these contacts Canal Land did receive Ampicillin, Chloromycetin and Vibramycin. It was not established, however, that this employee was prescribing any medication without respondent's prior direction. Respondent failed to take a blood smear of the patient C until sometime after he first prescribed Chloromycetin for the patient. The patient Carry Lam became increasingly concerned about the failure of her infection to clear up. She last saw respondent on or about November 3, 1976. She declined to submit to any further surgical procedures and a day or so later she sought advice from another physician. Campa I was diagnosed as having a serious infection. She was hospitalized a short time later, a blood smear was taken and the infection was cleared up.

XXI

On or about July 17, 1976 a patient A · contracted with respondent for the performance of an abdominal lipectomy and a tubal ligation. On August 3, 1976 these procedures were performed upon that patient by respondent at his medical clinic on Wilshire Boulevard, known as Wilshire Surgical Clinic. Following the surgery an employee of respondent drove Appears K to her A was scheduled to return to respondent's office on August 6, 1976 for postoperative care. She was informed that a car maintained by respondent would be sent to her residence to take her to the office. On August 5 the driver did not come to the residence of A K On the following day, August 6 the mother of A K K took Ms. K to respondent's medical clinic. Ms. was examined by an individual who she describes as a youthful Latin with curly hair. This individual introduced himself to Ms. Keeping as a doctor and stated that he assisted respondent in the operation of Ms. K. The Latin removed the bandages and commented that Ms. Karting's stomach looked beautiful. A foul odor and drainage was noted as coming from the incision. Ms. Keeping complained about a great deal of pain.

Latin advised Ms. Kanna to continue with the medication which she had been given. He bandaged the incision and told Ms. K he had applied a pressure bandage and that it must be removed in three days. On August 7 and 8, 1976 Agents Kennes suffered extreme pain at the site of the abdominal incision. She and her mother repeatedly attempted to contact respondent but respondent was unavailable. On August 9, 1976 the date Ms. Keeper was scheduled to see respondent she was advised in a telephone conversation that the driver who was supposed to bring her into the office on that day was unable to pick her up. This individual advised Ms. K she had spoken with respondent and Ms. Kamana was to pull down her bandages and everything would be all right. Thereafter, on August 10 and on August 11 Ms. Kamman made repeated phone calls to respondent's office stating that she must be seen but she was advised by respondent's employees that respondent was unavailable. She was reassured that things would be all right. On August 11, 1976 was admitted to the emergency department of Kaiser Hospital in Harbor City. At that time she had a severe wound infection and massive abdominal wall cellulitis. A has been left with a somewhat irregular scar. The scar is lower on one side than on the other. The shortcomings, however, are not Following the surgery she experienced numbness over the right lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh. Evidently the lateral cutaneous femoral nerve was cut during surgery.

IIXX

An organization known as Women's Advisory Council was originally located in Inglewood, California and thereafter relocated to offices at 1137 Second Street, Santa Monica, California. Vicki Amar, the wife of respondent, was one of the principals of this organization. Commencing at approximately June 1976 one Maurice Barbakow also known as Maury Barr became a principal in Women's Advisory Council. Actually Mr. Barbakow became the directing force behind the organization. A primary purpose of this organization was to advertise cosmetic surgery in the radio and press, to sell surgical proceedures to individuals interested, collect adequate funds from the individuals and then to arrange for surgeons to perform the requested procedures. Respondent did perform many surgeries for individuals who had initially come to Women's Advisory Council. Other physicians were also employed by this organization to perform surgical services.

It became a rather common practice to prescribe certain drugs for patients to take commencing approximately five days prior to their scheduled surgery. Maurice Barbakow and Vicki Amar arranged with Lifetime Pharmacy to have these patients provided with the required medications. The pharmacist in each case would call the offices of respondent, the pharmacist would receive verification, a telephone prescription would be prepared and the medication would be issued to the patients as follows:

On or about November 30, 1976 at the business premises of the Women's Advisory Council located at 1137 Second Street, Santa Monica, California Maurice Barbakow furnished to Electric State through Lifetime Pharmacy certain dangerous drugs namely Ampicillin, Ananase, and Synkayvite and again on December 10, 1976 Mr. Barbakow arranged for Electric State to again obtain these same drugs through Lifetime Pharmacy. Lifetime Pharmacy verified the prescription with respondent's office and in each case respondent's name appeared on the containers as the prescribing physician.

- B. On or about January 10, 1977 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council an individual who could not be identified at this hearing did arrange for Leader Bearing to obtain certain dangerous drugs namely Ampicillin, Ananase and Synkayvite through Lifetime Pharmacy. Respondent's office verified the prescription and respondent's name appeared as the prescribing physician.
- C. On or about December 18, 1976 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council Maurice Barbakow arranged to have Parameter obtain certain dangerous drugs namely Ampicillin Ananase, and Synkayvite through Lifetime Pharmacy. The pharmacy verified the prescription with respondent's office and respondent's name appeared as the prescribing physician.
- D. On or about January 11, 1977 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council an employee of the council arranged for Barranged to obtain certain dangerous drugs through Lifetime Pharmacy namely Ampicillin, Ananase and Synkayvite. The prescription was verified with respondent's office and respondent did appear as the prescribing physician.
- E. On or about January 11, 1977 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council Maurice Barbakow arranged for Managerous to obtain certain dangerous drugs through Lifetime Pharmacy namely Ampicillin, Ananase and Synkayvite. The prescription was verified with respondent's office and respondent's name appeared as prescribing physician.
- F. On or about November 5, 1976 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council Maurice Barbakow arranged for Jersey to obtain certain dangerous drugs through Lifetime Pharmacy namely Ampicillin, Ananase and Synkayvite. The prescription was verified with respondent's office and respondent's name appeared as the prescribing physician.
- G. On or about November 26, 1976 at the premises of Women's Advisory Council Maurice Barbakow arranged for Joseph December 26 to obtain certain dangerous drugs through Lifetime Pharmacy namely Ampicillin, Ananase and Synkayvite. The prescription was verified with respondent's office and respondent's name appeared as prescribing physician.

Respondent did not conduct any physical examination with respect to any of the above listed patients prior to the time that they received the Ampicillin, Ananase or Synkayvite.

Maurice Barbakow, also known as Maury Barr, did not hold any license issued by any healing arts board which would authorize him to furnish or prescribe dangerous drugs. No employee of Women's Advisory Council who arranged for individuals to obtain dangerous drugs was ever the holder of any license issued by any healing arts board which would authorize such individual to prescribe dangerous drugs. However, it was not established that respondent ever authorized Maurice Barbakow or any employee of Women's Advisory Council to prescribe drugs for individuals. A spokesman for Women's Advisory Council would send the individual to the pharmacy and the pharmacy would verify the prescription with respondent's office and a telephone prescription would be prepared.

IIIXX

Durng 1976 and continuing thereafter until the time of the hearing in January 1978 respondent maintained a clinic and medical offices at 6399 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. The building directory at that location identified respondent's business office and clinic as "Wilshire Cosmetic Surgical Clinic". The door to respondent's medical offices identify his practice as "Wilshire Surgical Clinic, Cosmetic and Gynecology".

During 1976 and 1977 respondent did maintain business cards at his place of business 6399 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. Respondent during this period of time did present business cards to various patients. The business cards bore the legend "Wilshire Surgical Clinic". At least one individual received a business cardof respondent at the premises of Women's Advisory Council and from an employee of that organization. Respondent's business card bore the legend "Wilshire Surgical Clinic".

On or about April 7, 1976 respondent caused the June 1976 issue of the Pacific Telephone White Pages Directory for the Los Angeles Exchange, Central Section of the Los Angeles extended area to contain the following listing "Wilshire Cosmetic Group, 6399 Wilshire Bl 655-6945." In the same directory respondent also caused the following listing to appear. "Wilshire Surgical Clinic 6399 Wilshire Bl 655-6945".

In the August 1976 issue of the Pacific Telephone Yellow Page Directory for the Los Angeles Exchange, Central Section of the Los Angeles extended area respondent caused the following entry to appear.

"Amar Leroy J

Member American Medical Association Wilshire Surgical Clinic Cosmetic & Gynecological Surgery Day or Night Call 6399 Wilshire Bl 655-6945"

In the same issue of the same directory respondent caused the following listing to appear.

"WILSHIRE SURGICAL CLINIC
Leroy's Amar M.D.
Member American Medical Association
Cosmetic & Gynecological Surgery
Day or Night Call
6399 Wilshire Bl. 655-6945"

At no time during the period commencing 1976 through 1977 did respondent have a valid permit issued by the Division of Licensing whereby respondent was registered or authorized to use the fictitious names of "Wilshire Cosmetic Surgical Clinic", "Wilshire Surgical Clinic", Cosmetic and Gynecology," "Wilshire Surgical Clinic," or "Wilshire Cosmetic Group" and each of the above-described fictitious names was used in connection with the medical practice of respondent during the period commencing 1976 through 1977.

VXIV

The business enterprise known as Women's Advisory Council was directed and managed in part by respondent's wife, Vicki Amar and also Maurice Barbakow. Maurice Barbakow was the more dominant individual in this business enterprise. The Women's Advisory Council caused advertisements to be placed and published in the Los Angeles Times, a newspaper of general circulation. The advertisements offered to women a "No fee" consultation concerning "Facelifts" and other forms of plastic and cosmetic surgery. The ads further stated that financing for the cost of surgical procedures would be available and the ads as well as the name of the organization itself conveyed the impression that Women's Advisory Council was an organization with particular concern and sensitivity for women as a class. Individuals including E S , L B B , B Told, Man Harry, J. P. and J. I Com, each responded to advertisements placed by Women's Advisory Council and each paid various sums or gave items of value either to Women's Advisory Council or to Maurice Barbakow or to Vicki Amar who was also known as Vicki Barbakow and these sums or items of value were paid to Women's Advisory Council or its principals as a deposit toward or in full payment for certain promised cosmetic surgical procedures. With respect to M and J P P respondent did perform the requested surgical procedures. With respect to E S , P M M B , B T A and J A and D respondent did not perform any surgical procedures.

While indeed there was a continuing business relationship between Women's Advisory Council and respondent it was not established that Women's Advisory Council was an organization controlled by respondent, nor was it established that Vicki Amar, also known as Vicki

Barbakow or Maurice Barbakow, also known as Maury Barr, were ever agents or employees of respondent with respect to the operation of Women's Advisory Council. While it is true that respondent did perform surgical procedures on several individuals who came to Women's Advisory Council, it is also quite true that this organization referred patients to several other surgeons active in the cosmetic field. Actually, a great deal of hostility often existed between respondent and Maurice Barbakow as well as between respondent and Vicki Amar. Respondent did not pay for the advertising of Women's Advisory Council and he exercised no control over that organization.

VXX

Respondent was born in Louisiana where he received his early He attended Southern University but he received no degree from that institution. He served in the United States Army and part of this service was in the intelligence section. Following his discharge he returned to college and he received his Bachelor's degree in June 1959 from Tennessee State. Respondent commenced his medical education at Maherry Medical School in 1956. He did experience some academic difficulties. He left that institution and obtained his Bachelor's degree at Tennessee. He then returned to Maherry Medical College from 1959 through 1961 for personal reasons involving his marriage and pending divorce and attended Howard Medical School commencing in September 1961 until June 1963. Respondent received his medical degree from Howard University. Respondent interned at Freedman's Hospital during 1963 and 1964. He next went to Harlem Hospital in New York where he obtained a residency in obstetrics and gynecology. This was a surgical residency and a portion of his training was in general surgery. It was also during this period when respondent did assist in some breast surgeries. Respondent was admitted to practice medicine in the States of New York and Maryland.

Respondent came to California in 1966 and he was licensed to practice medicine in this state in May of that year. He was first employed by California Lutheran Hospital where he became chief of obstetrics and gynecology. In June 1967 respondent took the examination for Board certification in obstetrics and gynecology. Unfortunately, respondent failed this examination. Respondent has served in various hospitals in the Los Angeles area where he has worked largely in obstetrics and gynecology and he has also seen considerable service for various hospitals in the emergency room. Respondent became the director of the Hope Emergency Clinic in 1971 and also the Wall Street Medical Clinic. Later respondent became associated with Manchester Hospital and with University Hospital. It was during this period that respondent first met Mr. Dubin who at that time operated an ambulance service.

In 1974 respondent again met Mr. Dubin. By this time Mr. Dubin and his wife had founded an organization known as "Women Who Help Women." This organization did advertise and the advertisements were directed to women who would desire to obtain abortions. Respondent agreed to work for Women Who Help Women approximately one

day a week, and he initially performed abortions on patients which were obtained by the organization known as Women Who Help Women. Sometime in June or July 1974 the organization entered the field of cosmetic surgery and a Dr. John Brown was engaged to perform these procedures. Respondent wished to receive instruction in the field of plastic surgery and ultimately the officers of Women Who Help Women persuaded Dr. Brown to instruct respondent in this field. Dr. Brown was quite unhappy with the arrangement because he was also required to pay respondent \$1,000.00 a week which sum could otherwise be retained by Dr. Brown. Dr. Brown did not feel that respondent should be paid this fee while he was being instructed. Thereafter, for the most part respondent relied upon Dr. Brown for his instruction. He also assumed that Dr. Brown would require any pre-operative tests he deemed necessary and conduct any pre-operative physical examination. As time went on respondent undertook a few breast augmentation cases under the immediate direction of Dr. Brown. Respondent continued his instruction into other areas of plastic surgery and in the meantime he was attending various seminars conducted in the field of plastic surgery.

IVXX

Respondent opened his surgical clinic, Wilshire Surgical Center, late in 1974. In 1975 respondent was one of a group who purchased Manchester Community Hospital and renamed it Robert F. Kennedy Community Hospital. Respondent worked in the emergency room of Kennedy Hospital. There were other individuals who gave some services to the hospital evidently on a volunteer basis and at this time respondent met Mr. Maurice Barbakow who worked at the facility in some administrative capacity and he also worked on behalf of the Wilshire Surgical Clinic. The Robert F. Kennedy Community Hospital closed in December 1975. The financial problem of this facility was in part due to the fact that for some reason the hospital was not eligible to receive Medi-Cal payment from the State of California.

IIVXX

Sometime in 1975 Henry Dubin formed the National Health and Appearance Foundation and Vicki Amar, respondent's wife, also founded the Women's Advisory Council. The funds needed to start Women's Advisory Council evidently came from the mother of Mrs. Amar. Maurice Barbakow became quite active in both the National Health and Appearance Foundation and also the Women's Advisory Council. It is quite true that these organizations did refer some patients to respondent for cosmetic surgery, however, at this time respondent did not control these organizations. Maurice Barbakow had previously suffered some form of criminal conviction for dishonest conduct. In approximately March 1976 he was rearrested. By this time respondent's wife had become emotionally involved with Maurice Barbakow. persuaded respondent to engage counsel and to obtain Mr. Barbakow's release pending trial. At about this point in time Vicki Amar moved in with Maurice Barbakow and she began using the name Vicki Barbakow. Respondent became involved with a young lady who had for sometime been both an employee and social companion. Respondent and this young woman

resided at the Wilshire Surgical Clinic. In approximately July 1976 the National Health and Appearance Foundation was in serious financial trouble. Respondent took this organization over but business records were virtually non-existent. Respondent closed the office of the National Health and Appearance Foundation and had the telephone transferred to the Wilshire Surgical Clinic. Respondent's girl friend was assigned to this telephone and when calls were received she attempted to determine what surgery was promised, what amount was due and she would then consult with respondent to determine whether or not respondent might undertake this surgery.

XXVIII

Women's Advisory Council also experienced serious problems. Maurice Barbakow left the state apparently to face federal criminal charges. Vicki Amar suffered emotional problems and was hospitalized on various occasions. Again the business records of Women's Advisory Council were inadequate and outraged patients were threatening both civil and criminal action against Vicki Amar. After a great deal of consultation respondent agreed to perform numerous surgical procedures for persons who had paid sums to Women's Advisory Council. Women's Advisory Council ceased doing business early in 1977.

XXIX

Respondent has regularly attended seminars and continuing education programs in the field of cosmetic surgery for the past several years. He has attended programs presented by various California medical schools and various other educational programs conducted throughout the United States. He also attended a two week course in Brazil. Respondent does recognize that he is not qualified in all phases of cosmetic surgery and he feels that in part because of his race he did not have an opportunity to obtain a residency in plastic surgery.

XXX

As to the patient B respondent does point out that this was Dr. Brown's patient. Respondent was not consulted with respect to the number of procedures which were performed. Respondent was at all times under the direction of Dr. Brown. The patient Man Same was also the patient of Dr. Brown. Respondent was an employee of the organization known as Women Who Help Women but at that time he was not employed as a surgeon or treating physician in the area of cosmetic surgery. The efforts Man State to contact respondent evidently were unknown to respondent. Regarding Land Sample respondent simply assumed that Dr. Brown had examined this patient prior to surgery and he notes that she received her doctor's permission to undergo this surgery. Respondent strongly denies that he would ever subject a patient to severe pain. Obviously any surgical procedure will cause concern to the patient but respondent does refer to his medical records which would indicate that the patient was appropriately sedated. Respondent does realize that one of Ms. ears was not placed in the proper position. He does not

feel that this establishes incompetence however, and he did offer to redo that ear without further cost to the patient. However, the patient declined any further procedures. Concerning the patient He B it is respondent's position that he did not leave drains in the breasts for seven or ten days. However, he does not know the precise time that drains were left in the breast. When the infections developed respondent did feel that it would be necessary to remove the implants in order to treat the infection. In his judgment, however, he felt that H B was quite emotional and she would become seriously upset if respondent attempted to remove the implants. As to respondent discharging the patient. It is his position that the patient's temperature had gone down to normal and respondent contends that it was the patient's mother who wished to take the patient out of the hospital. Even assuming that the mother wished to take H B from the hospital respondent was still under a duty to examine the patient and to decide if it was medically appropriate to discharge the patient. Concerning the patient The Kan Hamman it is respondent's position that this patient never complained concerning the size of her breasts. He does concede that there were several surgeries. However, they were not all performed in order to obtain equal size and proper placement of the breasts. Respondent also contends that the surgeries did not leave multiple scars on this patient and all entries were made essentially through the same incision. Again respondent strongly denies that he would ever proceed with a surgery if the patient is suffering. As to the patient Companies it is respondent's position his medical records show that this patient did not have a draining infection for a period of three months and actually many of the visits did indicate that the infection was clearing up. Respondent denies that he would perform surgical procedures through infected wounds. Concerning the prescriptions of Chloromycetin it is respondent's position that he gave a minimum prescription of this drug to the patient, which would not subject her to any appreciable He feels that this drug is more commonly prescribed in other sections of the country and the world. Respondent did not permit his assistants to prescribe drugs and blood tests of this patient were in fact taken, however, none prior to the time that Chloromycetin was prescribed. Concerning the patient A Karaman Karaman it is respondent's position that the surgery was in fact a good one and the scar while perhaps not perfect is not as bad as it is described in this accusation. Respondent never told this patient that stretch marks above the navel would be removed and he is at a loss to understand how the patient received this impression. Finally, respondent contends that he did not abandon this patient. He points out that he did see the patient three or four days after the surgery when the patient was brought in to his office by the patient's mother. personally unaware that his driver had some difficulty in picking up Ms. Keeper for her office appointment. With respect to the balance of the charges respondent contends that many of his problems were caused by Mr. Maurice Barbakow an individual who took advantage of respondent in every particular. Mr. Barbakow apparently stole money from respondent and from other organizations such as the Women's Advisory Council. He would make extensive promises to clients in order to obtain funds and then he failed to pay these funds over to respondent or other surgeons for work which they performed. It is respondent's position that he did not control any of the organizations including Women Who Help Women, the National Health and Appearance Foundation or the Women's Advisory Council. Actually these organizations retained several physicians from time to time to perform cosmetic surgery. Respondent was simply one of the physicians that would be retained. Actually respondent feels that he was of considerable assistance to many women who had paid money to these organizations but would not have received any surgery unless respondent had agreed to perform these surgeries for little or no compensation. Finally, it is respondent's position that he did consult with other cosmetic surgeons and he did confer with these individuals in many instances.

IXXX

The Board has before it a most controversial individual. He has been capable of extreme dedication in obtaining his medical education. He has presented letters from many friends and colleagues and these letters indicate that respondent is quite hardworking, conscientious and capable at least in the field of obstetrics and gynecology and when serving as a physician in a hospital emergency Respondent, however, has managed to tangle his professional and private life until they are intermingled to an astonishing degree. Respondent's ambition has certainly contributed to his untiring efforts to enter the field of cosmetic surgery in a manner and under a training program that is subject to serious question. Respondent has also demonstrated appalling shortcomings by allowing other individuals to manage his clinic, hospital and surgical practice. In many respects respondent was victimized but his carelessness made him a most attractive victim. In spite of his many errors this respondent is not an insensitive individual. He has been subjected to serious criticism from ther physicians, he is presently a defendant in other law suits and as of the time of this hearing he is facing misdemeanor criminal charges. It is quite obvious that this respondent places the highest value upon his license to practice medicine. He has been deeply stunned by the numerous accusations that he has had to face and he is correct in pointing out that at least in some cases his former patients have become extremely hostile toward him and they have to some extent exaggerated his shortcomings. This respondent does not claim to be a perfect physician. He concedes that he has made some mistakes and he expresses a willingness to comply with any requirements of the Board. He does maintain, however, that he is fully capable of practicing good medicine and his misconduct is not nearly as extensive as his detractors contend.

* * * * *

Pursuant to the foregoing findings of fact, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following determination of issues:

Under the provisions of Sections 2360 and 2361 of the Business and Professions Code the Division of Medical Quality has the authority to impose appropriate discipline where any licensee has committed acts or has been guilty of omissions which constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

A. Patient Ms. B

Respondent did not perform any of the surgical procedures on Ms. B. Respondent was guilty of some degree of negligence where he raised no objection or at least made no inquiry concerning the simultaneous performance of four plastic surgical procedures. However, it was not established that such conduct amounted to gross negligence or gross incompetence.

B. Patient M S S ::

Again respondent did not perform the surgery on this patient. As assisting surgeon, however, he was negligent to some degree concerning pre-operative records, but his conduct in this instance did not amount to gross negligence or gross incompetence.

C. Patient Las Signature:

Respondent was guilty of gross negligence and gross incompetence in proceeding with two life threatening operations on this patient without conducting a careful prior medical examination. The fact that this patient had a sunken chest causing the breasts to gravitate to the center of her chest does not amount to either gross incompetence or gross negligence. The fact that the autoplasty performed by respondent on the patient's left ear failed to substantially alter the position of that ear may demonstrate some degree of incompetence or negligence but not gross incompetence or gross negligence.

D. Patient Head B

The fact that respondent left drains in the breast of this patient for several days did expose her to risk of infection. While this did demonstrate a degree of negligence and incompetence it did not establish gross negligence or gross incompetence. Respondent was also either negligent or incompetent in leaving the breast implants in place after the serious infection developed. Respondent's actions in this regard, however, again do not amount to either gross incompetence or gross negligence. Respondent was guilty of gross negligence and gross incompetence when he discharged House Books from the hospital by telephone order at a time when she had an open wound in her right breast and an exposed implant. Even assuming that the mother of this patient desired her release from the hospital respondent had the compelling obligation to make a careful examination of this patient and to determine for himself whether it was appropriate to-discharge her.

E. Patient T K H

It was not established that respondent was guilty of gross incompetence or gross negligence with respect to the insertion of implants. It was not established that these implants were successively larger. Respondent was guilty of gross incompetence

and gross negligence by virtue of the number of procedures that he was required to perform in order to obtain equal size and proper placement of the implants. It was not established that the patient was left with extensive scars by virtue of the multiple procedures. Respondent was guilty of gross negligence in performing the fourth surgery without appropriate anesthesia. Respondent may have believed that the patient was properly sedated but he certainly owed his patient the obligation of paying more attention to her complaints and insuring that she was comfortable during the procedure.

F. Patient Canal Lan:

This patient did develop a serious infection. It would have been better to remove the implants and to cure the infection but this failure does not amount to gross negligence or that level of incompetence which would justify disciplinary action. Further, it was not established that at the time the subsequent procedures were performed the wounds were infected or exposed the patient Respondent was guilty of gross to prolonged infection. negligence and he was guilty of incompetence in failing to take preliminary blood studies prior to the prescription of Respondent was also guilty of gross negligence Chloromycetin. and incompetence in instructing his unlicensed assistant to remove the patient's ruptured implant. Respondent was not guilty of gross negligence or incompetence by virtue of his removal of this implant from his patient. Respondent did in fact wash his hands before removing the implant and the wound was treated immediately following the removal of the implant. It was not established that respondent permitted his assistant to prescribe antibiotics for this patient. Respondent was consulted and he did issue all of the prescriptions for this patient. Respondent did authorized and instruct his office assistant to remove the ruptured implant from the breast of Carron Lag. This removal would have required the office assistant to cut a small amount of skin or flesh which was still holding the implant in the In this regard respondent did aid and abet the unlicensed practice of medicine.

G. Patient A

Respondent was guilty of some degree of negligence and incompetence with respect to the location of the scar on this patient. This action, however, did not amount to gross negligence or that degree of incompetence which is required for disciplinary action. It does appear that respondent did cut the lateral cutaneous femoral nerve. It was not established that this amounted to gross negligence or that degree of incompetence which justifies disciplinary action. Respondent is not subject to disciplinary action for his failure to remove certain stretch marks. The stretch marks complained of by this patient could not be removed by the procedure performed by respondent. The problem here is not a case of negligence or incompetence but simply a misunderstanding between the patient and the physician. Respondent

has been guilty of gross negligence and incompetence in that

A was unable to contact respondent and to
obtain promised treatment from respondent at a time when she
was in serious need of respondent's care. Respondent promised
this patient that he would provide transportation to his office
for postoperatiove care. The patient relied on that promise and
respondent was obligated to meet his commitment. The fact that
respondent may not have been fully aware of this patient's
problems is not persuasive. Respondent did know that he had
operated on this patient and he was fully aware that she would
require postoperative care. He had an obligation to be available
should she have problems and respondent's conduct in this
instance did amount to an abandonment of his patient.

Respondent has been guilty of gross negligence, of incompetence and of gross incompetence as set forth above and by such action he has subjected his license to disciplinary action pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2361(b) and (d) of the Business and Professions Code.

Respondent did prescribe dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code without a good faith prior examination or medical indication therefor as to the patients Estate Same, Leader Beautier, Professions Code and Section 2399.5 of the Business and Professions Code and subjected his license to disciplinary action.

Respondent did suggest that an office assistant engage in a procedure which would have amounted to the unlawful practice of medicine and it would have amounted to a violation of Section 2141 of the Business and Professions Code. This office assistant, however, did not engage in the action which respondent requested. In view of the fact that the unlawful practice of medicine did not occur respondent did not aid or abet his office assistant in violating Section 2141 of the Business and Professions Code.

As to the prescriptions obtained by clients of Women's Advisory Council it was not established that respondent assisted in or abetted in the unlicensed practice of medicine by Maurice Barbakow or any other employee of Women's Advisory Council. The pharmacy verified all of the prescriptions with respondent's office and under these circumstances the prescriptions were issued by respondent and not by Maurice Barbakow or any other person. Respondent is not subject to disciplinary action for violation of Section 2392 of the Business and Professions Code.

Respondent did use a fictitious name and at the time of such use he did not hold a permit for such use issued by the Division of Licensing. By such conduct respondent did violate Section 2393 of the Business and Professions Code and he has subjected his license to disciplinary action.

This respondent was certainly closely associated with individuals who operated the Women's Advisory Council and similar

organizations. It was not established by a preponderance of the evidence, however, that respondent employed cappers or steerers or other persons in attempting to procure patients for his medical practice. Under these circumstances respondent is not subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the provisions of Section 2399 of the Business and Professions Code.

The facts established by respondent have been considered in making the order herein set forth. While it is true that some of respondent's problems may have been created or compounded by others this respondent has engaged in most serious misconduct. While respondent does possess many admirable qualities he has in many instances failed to exercise wisdom or prudence.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made:

The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C28142 heretofore issued to respondent Leroy Amar, M.D. allowing him to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of California is hereby revoked; provided, however, execution of said order of revocation is hereby stayed and respondent is placed on probation for a period of seven years from the effective date of this decision upon the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent's certificate shall be suspended for a period of thirty (30) days and indefinitely thereafter until respondent shall take and successfully pass an oral and clinical examination as to his medical knowledge and skill in the field of obstetrics and gynecology and also in the emergency room practice.

Upon successfully passing said examination the suspension of respondent's certificate will be terminated and he shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the seven year period to the Division of Medical Quality upon the following terms and conditions:

A. Except as otherwise authorized by written consent of the Division of Medical Quality first obtained by respondent, respondent's practice under his certificate shall be solely limited to obstetrics and gynecology as well as emergency room work and all of respondent's practice shall be in a structured and supervised environment where respondent will be under the direct supervision of another licensee and the environment must first be approved by the Division before respondent may accept such employment and no change of employment shall occur without the prior authorization from the Division.

B. Within the first twenty-four months of probation the respondent must successfully complete a continuing education program approved in advance by the Division of Medical Quality or its designee.

- C. Respondent shall report in person to the medical consultant of the Division of Medical Quality as directed in writing at the time and place so designated. Respondent shall be given at least fifteen days notice of the time and place of each required appearance.
- E. Respondent shall provide quarterly reports to the Division of Medical Quality verifying that respondent has complied with all the conditions of his probation.
- F. Respondent shall comply with the laws of the United States, the State of California and its political subdivisions and with the rules and regulations of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance.
- G. Practice or residency outside the State of California shall toll the period of probation of this order unless written permission is first obtained from the Division of Medical Quality.

In the event respondent fails to comply with any of the above terms or conditions and during the period of his probation the Division of Medical Quality after providing notice to respondent and an opportunity to be heard may terminate respondent's probation effective immediately and reimpose the order of revocation or take such other action as the Division deems just and reasonable in its discretion. Upon full compliance with the terms and conditions of probation respondent's license shall be fully restored.

I hereby submit the foregoing which constitutes my Proposed Decision in the above entitled matter, as a result of the hearing had before me on the above dates, at Los Angeles, California, and recommend its adoption as the decision of the Division of Medical Quality, Board of Medical Quality Assurance.

DATED: 3-16-78

TOHN A. WILLD

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

JAW:mh